

Claim Amendments

1-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) An inverted T-beam as recited in claim ~~12~~ 18 wherein said aperture is substantially rectangular in shape, and projections are located at the top and bottom of said aperture.

14. (Currently Amended) An inverted T-beam as recited in claim ~~13~~ 18 wherein the free end of said tooth engages one of said projections to lock a first one of said inverted T-beams in said aperture of a second T-beam of identical configuration.

15. (Currently Amended) An inverted T-beam as recited in claim 14 wherein said free end of said tooth is released from locking engagement by squeezing said ~~rectilinear~~ legs together.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) An inverted T-beam as recited in claim ~~12~~ 18 wherein a step is formed at the junction between the ~~first~~ inner portion having a greater height and the second ~~outer~~ portion having a lesser height.

18. (New) An inverted T-beam comprising:

- a) a pair of ends with a central web extending therebetween,
- b) at least one end having an appendix formed from two coplanar portions of different heights,
- c) a first inner portion of said appendix having a height greater than the height of a second outer portion of said appendix, said first inner portion and said second outer portion forming a unitary coplanar member,

- d) said second outer portion being bent at its free end to form a bent portion,
- e) said bent portion of said second outer portion and said second outer portion forming the legs of a substantially V-shape structure,
- f) said bent portion having a height lesser than the height of said second outer portion,
- g) a tooth having a fixed end and a free end, said fixed end being joined to said bent portion,
- h) the free end of said tooth extending outwardly from said bent portion at an acute angle defined between said second outer portion and said bent portion,
- i) said tooth having a height less than the height of said bent portion,
- j) said free end of said tooth facing the end of said first inner portion,
- k) said free end of said bent portion projecting beyond the intersection of said first inner portion and said second outer portion toward said first inner portion, and
- l) at least one aperture in said central web having a height substantially equal to the height of said outer portion of said appendix.